

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7 and 10 have been amended. Non-elected claims 13-15 and 25-57 have been cancelled. Claims 1-12, 16-24 and 58-60 remain pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 2, 5-6, 8-9, 16, 19-20, 22-23 and 58-60.

Applicants further gratefully acknowledge the indicated allowability of claims 11, 12, 17, 18, 21 and 24. In view of the patentability of their respective base claims as set forth below, Applicants have not rewritten these claims into independent form at this time.

In the Office Action, independent claims 1, 3, 4, 7 and 10 were rejected as obvious over YAMANE et al. (US 6,115,270) in view of BOROWEIC (EP 0552981) and MASATO (JP 11-089247). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the clarifying amendments made to these claims and the following remarks.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 3, 4, 7 and 10 to clarify that the output and input terminals are electric power input and output terminals. The output terminals are “adapted to be fed therethrough with an electric power controlled by the semiconductor elements”. And, the input terminals are “adapted to feed an electric power therethrough to the semiconductor elements so as to be controlled by the semiconductor elements”. Hence, Applicants have clarified that the input and output terminals are electric power terminals.

In general, Applicants' invention is directed toward a power conversion apparatus having a power module part incorporating therein the input and output terminals through which electrical power is fed to and from the semiconductor elements. The input and output terminals are mounted in a particular arrangement, such as being staggered with one another as noted in claim 7. These particular arrangements of the input and output terminals allow for wiring in different directions and, advantageously, allow the power module part to be of a compact and small size.

In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, YAMANE does not teach the input/output terminals being arranged as in Applicants' invention, such as in a staggered configuration. This fact was recognized by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action. In an effort to remedy this deficiency, the Examiner cites to BOROWEIC for such an arrangement of input and output terminals. In particular, the Examiner cites to column 7 and claim 12 of BOROWEIC for such a teaching.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, however, as BOROWEIC fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed arrangement of input and output electric power terminals. Applicants respectfully point out that BOROWEIC's claim 12 does not relate to the configuration of electric power input and output terminals, but rather describes a configuration of Kelvin control terminals. In this regard, referring to Figure 1 in BOROWEIC, what is shown is a staggered configuration of control terminals (not electric power terminals). Specifically, terminals G1, G2 SK1, SK2 are not electrical power terminals, but rather control

terminals. By contrast, in BOROWEIC terminal D1 and common terminal D2/S2 correspond to the electric power input and output terminals of Applicants' claimed invention. Clearly, those electric power terminals in BOROWEIC (D1 and D2/S2) are not arranged in any staggered fashion.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit claims 1, 3, 4, 7 and 12 are patentable over the YAMANE in view of BOROWEIC and MASATO references.


For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #381AS/50803).

Respectfully submitted,

July 21, 2004

  
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